

REMARKS

This response is supplemental to the response to office action filed March 15, 2005, and adds new claim 31 in order to further emphasize patentable features of applicants' invention. In the response filed March 15, 2005, claims 7, 17, and 27 were canceled and claims 1-3, 11-13, and 21-23 were amended. By this amendment, claim 31 is added, based on the flowcharts of Figures 4 and 5. It is submitted that no new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-7, 8-16, 18-26, and 28-31 are now pending in the present application. Comments and remarks set forth in the response filed April 12, 2005 are incorporated herein by reference.

I. Claim Rejections

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-14, 17, 19-24, 27, and 29-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Dutta (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0073008).

Additionally, claims 5-6, 8, 15-16, 18, 25-26, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Dutta in view of Okumura (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0032633). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 31 is a method claim that recites features from claims 1, 8, and 10. Claim 31 additionally recites the steps of *determining a search string comprising said first universal product code and said price range* and of *searching said database for a complementary match ... wherein said complementary match must have a second universal product code that is identical to said first universal product code*. As discussed in the previously submitted response, it is submitted that neither Okumura nor Dutta disclose the receipt of a universal product code as part of the description of the product; therefore, it is also true that these two patent applications do not use such a universal product code in determining a search string for searching a database, nor do they perform a search in which a match between buyer and seller requires an exact match in the universal product code. Therefore, these newly recited steps are not shown by any combination of these patent applications. It is further submitted that the cited patent applications do not suggest modifying either their search string or their method of finding a match so that either of these steps utilizes a universal product code. Therefore, it is

submitted that newly added claim 31 is patentable over Dutta and Okumura for all of the reasons shown.

II. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over Dutta and Okumura and is now in condition for allowance.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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